(iv) 28,533 out of a total of 33,071 exchanges are already provided with reliable media as on 31.01.2002. The remaining exchanges are being covered progressively during the current year.

(v) Internet access is available to all District Headquarters.

Rural telephony obligations

1176. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sought from the Planning Commission for meeting the rural telephony obligations for the year 2002-2003;

(b) the amount approved by the Planning Commission; and

(c) how resources would be met for the rural telephony?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) had prepared two alternate plan proposals for 2002-03. One plan was for Rs. 17853 crores containing a sum of Rs. 4,206 crores as compensation from Government towards rural telephony and an alternate plan was for Rs. 14076 crores containing Rs. 1 crore as compensation from Government towards rural telephony. Planning Commission has approved the alternate plan with reduced outlay.

(b) Rs. 1.00 crore.

(c) Rural telephones to the extent possible shall be provided in the alternative Plan, partly through internal generation and partly through compensation available from Government.

Business Houses relating to IT industry

†1177. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that commercial institutes relating to information technology industry are functional in the different States;

(b) if so, the number of such houses at the end of December, 2001, State-wise; and

(c) the increase in the number of these houses during last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The companies registered under the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) represent major part of the industry. The number of units registered State-wise under the STPI scheme till the end of December, 2001, are given at Statement-I. (*See* below)

(c) The number of units registered under the STPI scheme State-wise, during the last three years, are given at Statement-II.

Statement-I

No. of Units Registered Under STPI State-wise upto Dec. 2001

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Upto Dec. 2001
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1292
2.	Assam	35
3.	Bihar	2
4.	Chhattisgarh	1
5.	Delhi	921
6.	Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli	8
7.	Gujarat	346
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1
9.	Haryana	161
10.	Jharkhand	5

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Upto Dec. 2001
11.	Karnataka	997
12.	Kerala	217
13.	Maharashtra	1446
14.	Madhya Pradesh	78
15.	Orissa	135
16.	Punjab	159
17.	Pondicherry	6
18.	Rajasthan	91
19.	Tamil Nadu	737
20.	Uttaranchal	4
21.	Uttar Pradesh	239
22.	West Bengal	234
	TOTAL:	7115

Statement-II

No. of Units registered Under STPI

Sl. No.	Name of the State	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
1.	Andhra Pradesh	192	977	1206
2.	Assam	0	26	30
3.	Bihar	0	0	1
4.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	1
5.	Delhi	163	786	879
6.	Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli.	0	7	8
7.	Gujarat	49	295	308
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0	1	1
9.	Haryana	27	104	129
10.	Jharkhand	0	4	5
11.	Karnataka	276	746	932
12.	Kerala	50	188	208
13.	Maharashtra	142	1229	1352
14.	Madhya Pradesh	8	65	74

Sl. No.	Name of the State	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
15.	Orissa	36	152	157
16.	Punjab	20	131	147
17.	Pondicherry	0	4	6
18.	Rajasthan	24	79	82
19.	Tamil Nadu	122	535	667
20.	Uttaranchal	0	2	4
21.	Uttar Pradesh	59	193	228
22.	West Bengal	36	131	226
	TOTAL:	1204	5657	6652

Telephone network in rural areas

†1178. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had entrusted the work of setting up of telephone networks in rural areas to private and governmental institutions;

(b) if so, the number of villages where the work of setting up of telephone is entrusted to private and governmental institutions separately; and

(c) the number of villages where telephone facility had been set up by December, 2001, in both the sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.